

Monroe County Early Intervention Program

OSC Admin Minutes

Panera Bread – Penfield

December 11, 2012

Review of Minutes and Announcements

- Gina has assumed a new position as department director at CFC, but for now, her responsibilities related to the EI Program will remain the same.
- Liberty Post will be moving ahead with providing ongoing service coordination. They will begin interviewing after the 1st of the year.
- CCHS has postponed their process due to other factors (i.e., preschool group moratorium)
- There are three open-competitive civil services examinations coming up if anyone is interested. 1) Assistant Health Services Coordinator (County SC position) 2.) Assistant Health Services Coordinator- Bilingual and 3.) Special Children's Services Administrator (AMSs position). Both tests will be offered on February 23rd. See county website if interested in applying to take the test.
- Update on MC EI Program- The Grade 14 (previously held by Barbara) was reclassified and approved. This is a promotional position only and will be posted in the near future.
- SKIP announced that they are looking to fill a CARE at HOME waiver service coordinator position.

ARMS LENGTH – as of January 2013 – Ann Marie reviewed what she knew as of this date.

- Effective January 1st, the evaluator cannot be the service provider unless a waiver has been submitted by the Service Coordinator and approval granted by the Commissioner of Health.
- The actual waiver form and process for the service coordinator to follow has not yet been issued by NYSDOH BEI.
- This regulation will apply to new children referred on or after January 1, 2013 and any new supplemental evaluations requested for current children on or after January 1st, 2013.
- Chrissy raised question as to whether or not it would be a conflict if the service coordinator and a supplemental evaluation would be considered to be a conflict of interest if both were from the same agency. According to documentation subsequently provided by NYSDOH BEI, the Service Coordinator and Evaluator may be from the same agency.

ARMS LENGTH Concerns from the perspective of the evaluation teams

Ann Marie summarized the information from the portions of the meetings she was able to attend in addition to feedback she has received. At the first meeting, providers shared their concerns and questions about the new regulation. The intended purpose of the meeting was to see if providers could come to consensus about ceasing to provide evaluations in response to the new regulation. Opinions were missed and during the discussion, the group identified a number of different "possibilities" re how they and the county may move forward. These includes, but were not limited to: maintaining the status quo or keeping things "as is"; exploring the possibility of the county establishing an evaluation team; developing a schedule whereby evaluations are rotated; eval teams could possibly collaborate and form an agency that just provides evals, etc. Refer to PIP notes for additional ideas discussed.

At the end of the 2nd meeting, those evaluators that were present stated that they would "wait and see" how the arms-length regulation plays out and if necessary, make changes to their business practices.

ARMS Length as it applies to Service Coordinators

Some discussion ensued as to how this may require service coordinators to change their thought process when looking for providers for evaluations, and providers for services.

Nancy Consol brought up thought about utilizing consults vs evaluations in an effort to comply with regulation (utilizing consults vs. a supplemental when appropriate).

UPDATE on the Overview of Service Coordination – information obtained from state webinar

- The multi-disciplinary evaluation team and initial service coordinator will be responsible for determining if a referral to the OPWDD needs to be made for a child. We are awaiting guidance for this. The OSC will also have a role in this.
- As of April 1st, Service coordinator agencies will be responsible for sending notifications directly to the school districts (the state is possibly developing a standardized form for this)
- The service coordinator will be responsible to report on the quality of delivery of services to children
- We are thinking that this applies to 30 day time line as to the start date of services. It is up to the municipality as to how they want to track this and other information related to the delivery of service. This will be a future agenda item to develop as a group.

POLICY CHANGES/updates & reminders

ANN Marie shared that the IFSP will be revised and discussed some of the next steps.

- There will be consistent paperwork that looks the same from both ISC's and OSC's – What it will look like (primarily the face sheet) will be determined by a work group that will be developed to address this. Chrissy volunteered to be part of this group and Jeanne volunteered one of her staff – Catie. Other volunteers are welcome. Please email Deb if interested in participating in this work group.
- Since the clerks at the county input the IFSP's for the county staff, a new data entry form will be developed but it will not require any parent signature on it. We are anticipating to have this completed by the next OSC Quarterly – OSC's should see the files start to come over with the new form enclosed at that time.

POOL Therapy

- Clarified that the process for pool assessments will be changing per discussion/collaboration with Chasa and CP Rochester.
- Since the EI community generally refers to a pool assessment as a pool evaluation it becomes confusing. There is no such thing as a pool evaluation in EI. We will try to change the mind set by referencing pool consults.
- There will always be authorized 3 pool consults for any child that needs a pool assessment.
- If pool therapy is determined to be effective for a child, the recommendation for the amount of time will be reflected as "Z-G" visits on the child's IFSP plan. 1 hour of pool therapy is equal to 3 Z-G visits, a ½ hour of pool therapy will be reflected as 2 Z-G visits. All Z-G visits for the purposes of pool therapy will be waived.

PLANNING FOR THE OSC QUARTERLY

- Next quarterly is scheduled for Tuesday, JANUARY 22nd. Room TBD
- Ann Marie proposed order of agenda for the meeting – she would like to do the "Group" activity first, then do the county business. How much business is done is dependent on how much concrete information we have received from the state by then.
- In Regards to the Group activity, Cindy will send out a schedule of what service coordinators are visiting what groups based on feedback from county and OSC supervisors.
- The service coordinators will be required to visit their respective groups, utilizing the forms that have been sent out to provide information on what items to look for that make a good quality group. Also, we hope that the OSC's will be able to update the group matrix with current information from their group observations.
- At the OSC quarterly, there will be small groups composed of the service coordinators that went to view each group. They will discuss their impressions of the group. (approx.. 20 min)
- Then each small group will present on their observed developmental group to the larger sc group as a whole (approx.. 10 min)

ACTION ITEMS

- Ann Marie to send questions to BEI re: arms-length
- Cindy will complete visiting group grid and send out
- Chasa will complete Aquatic Therapy guidelines reflecting these changes.
- Group will firm up plans for OSC quarterly

